

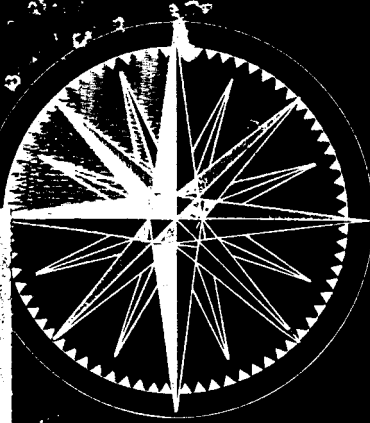
~~TOP SECRET~~

The overall exemptions for this document are (b)(1) and (b)(3). 26 April 1963

SC No. 00589/63

Copy No. 357

*SE, MSS, APC*



# WEEKLY REVIEW

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2000

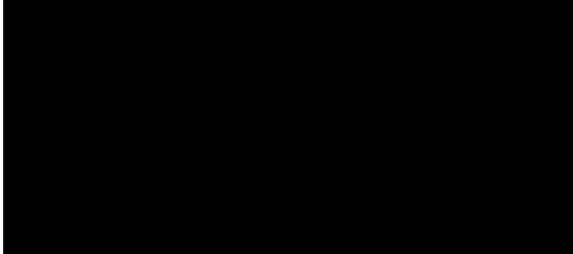
~~THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODE WORD MATERIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

TRINIDAD PREMIER PROMOTING CARIBBEAN UNITY

Trinidad's Prime Minister Eric Williams appears to be making some headway in efforts to develop a Caribbean economic and political bloc. His political position at home is strong, and he has long been ambitious to extend his influence throughout the region.




Since the collapse of the West Indies Federation in 1962, relations among Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Windward and Leeward Islands have been distant. Williams subsequently undertook a series of moves calculated to tighten inter-Caribbean relations.

First he established closer ties with Dutch Surinam. On a visit to Jamaica in mid-February on other matters, Williams negotiated an agreement for the exchange of high commissioners and the establishment of working parties to discuss matters of mutual interest. Williams also visited British Guiana and persuaded Prime Minister Jagan to retain an interest in the continuation of a regional university. Williams' efforts were assisted by his acceptance of a new rice trade agreement on Guianese terms.

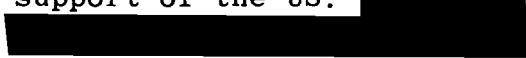
After talks with leaders of Barbados and Antigua, Williams

announced on 3 April that a meeting of the heads of governments in the West Indies area should be held, possibly in June. He proposed an extensive agenda covering a wide variety of economic, political, and cultural matters of common concern. The main purpose of the meeting, however, is apparently to formulate a joint approach to the US for economic aid. On 23 April Williams claimed publicly that the leaders of Jamaica, Barbados, and even British Guiana were cooperating in his plan for closer Caribbean ties.



Williams is generally respected in the Caribbean area for his academic and political attainments. He apparently has elicited not only considerable sympathy for his ideas but a measure of acquiescence in his leadership as well. There is some disagreement, however, about the desirability of closer cooperation with Communist-oriented British Guiana. Williams' role is particularly significant at a time when Jamaica--the other state most capable of area leadership--seems uninterested in taking up the challenge.

In Jamaica, Williams' critical attitude toward the US may have struck a responsive chord among certain ministers who feel the US is indifferent to Jamaica's aid needs, and might undermine in the long run Prime Minister Bustamante's strong support of the US.



APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
E: SEP 2000